

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

DEAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 INR-07 /084 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2445

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF SN

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, BOAT CASES, "MIGHTY"

REF: SINGAPORE 4351

1. MISOFF HAS DISCUSSED CASE OF "MIGHTY" WITH UNHCR RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL, STRESSING POSSIBLE FAILURE OF SAMPATKUMAR TO REQUEST GOS TO PERMIT DEBARKATION OF REFUGEES IN SINGAPORE (PARA 3, REF). UNHCR REP RESPONDED HE HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH SAMPATKUMAR THIS MORNING AND LATTER STATED HE HAD REQUESTED REFUGEE DEBARKATION, ALTHOUGH EXPECTING THIS WOULD BE DENIED, AND IN FACT FAILED TO OBTAIN GOS PERMISSION.

2. SAMPATKUMAR FURTHER INFORMED UNHCR THAT "MIGHTY" HAD ALREADY LEFT BALAWAN, WHERE REFUGEES THEMSELVES INDICATED THEY DID NOT WISH TO DEBARK, AND IS NOW IN PENANG

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WITH KARACHI AS NEXT STOP. (DEPARTURE DATE FROM

PENANG AND ETA KARACHI NOT KNOWN.) SAMPATKUMAR EXPRESSED OPINION TO UNHCR THAT CHANCES WERE NOT GOOD FOR LANDING REFUGEES IN PENANG, SINCE GOM WOULD PROBABLY POINT TO REFUSAL OF GOVERNMENTS AT EARLIER PORTS TO PERMIT LANDING. TO MISSOFF'S EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SAMPATKUMAR WOULD NONETHELESS LODGE REQUEST WITH GOM TO PERMIT LANDING OF REFUGEES, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THE RECORD, UNHCR REP GAVE ASSURANCE THIS WAS BEING DONE, AS IN EVERY INSTANCE OF SHIPS ARRIVING WITH REFUGEES ON BOARD.

3. UNHCR REP STATED THAT IF DEBARKATION IS NOT POSSIBLE IN PENANG, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE DURING CALL AT KARACHI, WHERE UNHCR IS REPRESENTED BY UNDP.

4. MISSOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO QUERY UNHCR REP WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL RESPONSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO HIGH COMMISSIONER'S APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SMALL BOAT REFUGEES. REP SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO U.S., ONLY FORMAL RESPONSES THUS FAR HAVE COME FROM BELGIUM, WHICH HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT 20, AND FROM HOLLAND, WHICH WILL ACCEPT 57. HOWEVER, SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, AND GERMANY. HAVE INDICATED IN PRACTICAL TERMS OF ACCEPTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES THEIR REACTION TO HIGHCOM APPEAL.CATTO

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